

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~combining voice frame~~ analyzing network endpoint probe results, the method comprising:

transmitting ~~plural or receiving a plurality of~~ endpoint probes to ~~produce plural endpoint probe results indicating the preparedness of the endpoints for calls routed thereto~~ associated with multiple different endpoint addresses;

identifying ~~similarly situated endpoints~~ a group of the multiple endpoint addresses associated with a same network domain;

~~representing each of the similarly situated~~ using a reduced number of network addresses less than a total number of the identified endpoint addresses to identify probe results for all of the identified endpoint addresses ~~endpoints by a reduced number of recorded endpoint probe results that substantially represent the preparedness of each of the similarly situated endpoints.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 which further comprises:

caching ~~the reduced number of stored endpoint probe results for each group of similarly situated endpoints~~ all of the identified endpoint addresses in the reduced number of network addresses thereby reducing a total amount of cache required to store network preparedness results for the identified endpoint addresses.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~, wherein said representing includes including mapping plural individual network addresses into the network address of a group of plural individual network addresses that represent the similarly situated endpoints and by recording the endpoint probe result for the network address of the group as representative of the preparedness of the similarly situated endpoints~~ receiving probe results for the individual endpoint addresses in the identified group and using a single network processing device address to identify the probe results for all of the individual endpoint addresses.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~which further comprises: proxy-reporting the reduced number of recorded endpoint~~ including using probe results for one of

the identified endpoint addresses to represent probe results for as representative of one or more of the similarly situated endpoints multiple ones of the identified endpoint addresses.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of the includes an Internet protocol (IP) phone~~ including associating at least one of the reduced network addresses with a Public Branch Exchange (PBX) and associating multiple ones of the identified endpoint addresses with Internet Protocol (IP) phones.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of the endpoints includes~~ including associating at least one of the identified endpoint addresses with an Internet protocol (IP) voice gateway.

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus for consolidating plural endpoint probe results into a reduced number of representative endpoint probe results, the apparatus comprising:

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a mapping mechanism for mapping the probe results for ~~similarly situated multiple~~ endpoints into a reduced number of endpoint probe results that substantially represent the preparedness of each of the ~~similarly situated multiple~~ endpoints, the mapping mechanism ~~including executable software instructions for identifying similarly situated the multiple~~ endpoints within a ~~voice frame~~ network by their individual network addresses and ~~executable software instructions for mapping~~ endpoint probe results associated with the individual network addresses of the identified ones of the similarly situated endpoints into a same network address that is representative of the similarly situated endpoints, and

a recording mechanism for recording the reduced number of endpoint probe results and associating the reduced number of endpoint probe results with the same network address.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 which further comprises:  
a proxy reporting mechanism for reporting the reduced-and-recorded endpoint probe results as representative of one or more of the ~~similarly situated multiple~~ endpoints that is mapped by said mapping mechanism into such reduced-and-recorded endpoint probe results.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 which further comprises:  
a caching mechanism for caching the reduced-and-recorded probe results for the ~~similarly situated endpoint groups~~ multiple endpoints.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 which further comprises:  
a pinging mechanism for producing the plural endpoint probe results, said pinging mechanism test-probing plural endpoints to determine the preparedness thereof for calls routed thereto.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one of the ~~plural~~ multiple endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) phone.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one of the ~~plural~~ multiple endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) voice gateway.

13. (Currently amended) A voice frame network address consolidation method for use with pinging endpoints to determine their interconnectivity preparedness, the method comprising:

identifying ~~similarly-situated~~ multiple endpoints within the voice frame network by their individual network addresses;

mapping the network addresses of the identified ~~ones of the similarly-situated~~ endpoints into a single network address that is representative of the ~~similarly-situated~~ multiple endpoints; and

utilizing the pinging results for the mapped-to network address to represent the interconnectivity preparedness of the ~~similarly-situated~~ multiple endpoints ~~that are mapped thereto~~.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of the endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) phone.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of the endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) voice gateway.

16. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for consolidating voice frame network address endpoint probe results to determine their interconnectivity preparedness, the program comprising:

instructions for identifying ~~similarly situated~~ multiple endpoints within the ~~voice~~ frame network by their individual network addresses;

instructions for mapping the network addresses of the identified ~~ones of the similarly situated~~ multiple endpoints into a network address that is representative of the ~~similarly situated~~ multiple endpoints; and

instructions for utilizing the ping results for the mapped-to network address to represent the interconnectivity preparedness of the ~~similarly situated~~ multiple endpoints that are mapped thereto.

17. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 16, wherein at least one of the multiple endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) phone.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 16, wherein at least one of the multiple endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) voice gateway.

19. (Currently amended) Apparatus for consolidating plural endpoint probe results into a reduced number of representative endpoint probe results, the apparatus comprising:

means for identifying ~~similarly situated~~ endpoints within the voice frame network by their individual network addresses;

means for mapping the network addresses of the identified ones of the ~~similarly situated~~ endpoints into a network address that is representative of the ~~similarly situated~~ endpoints; and

means for utilizing the ping results for the mapped-to network address to represent the interconnectivity preparedness of the ~~similarly situated~~ endpoints that are mapped thereto.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein at least one of the endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) phone.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at least one of the endpoints includes an Internet protocol (IP) voice gateway.